



Bringing Together Juvenile Court Stakeholders to Attain Permanency for Youth With Complex Needs

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DATA QUIZ



Average number of days in care:



A. 778

B. 602

C. 582

D. 323

E. 197

Number of youth who emancipated:



- 3403
- 2777
- 2502
- 2319
- 1846

Number of youth receiving AB12 services



A.7,030

B.6,412

C.5,950

D.5,288

E.4,309

What does this mean for the kids who emancipate without a family?

- planned homelessness
- lack of high school diploma
- unemployment
- risk of victimization
- poor health/diet

- risk of survival behaviors
- no supportive relationships
- single parenthood
- declining self esteem
- NO FUTURE!



Family vs Placement

- We **MUST** change our perspectives
- APPLA is **NOT** really permanency

- **ALL** our youth need families...even beyond age 18
- Parallel planning: seeking families **WHILE** setting up supports/resources/services



**Why there MUST to be a cross systems
collaboration aka
*Integrated Core Practice Model***

**Connection between Child Abuse/Neglect and
Delinquency/Adult Offending**

Dual Status Youth

Youth and their families touch many other systems

**Use same resources and providers—risk of duplication of
services when there are too few services/slots available**

Need collaboration with many partners to be successful

Strategies to Achieve a “Family Life”



- **Everyone needs to challenge the Status Quo of a youth’s situation**
- **Family Finding must be thorough, conscientious, persistent and throughout the life of the case:**
 - At every CFTM, court hearing, IEP, meeting, etc.
 - Involve and engage youth to share
 - printing out lists from the internet is insufficient and fails the youth
 - must engage identified people personally—not a form letter!
 - revisit people who couldn’t help in the past
 - reconsider birth parents—what about the fathers??
 - even if individuals can’t be THE family, they ALL have something to offer

Judges must ask youth about their preferred place to live

A few phrases that can help:

- >“Your parents are still working on their case plan, is there somewhere else you could stay that’s safe and comfortable?”*
- >“Do you know what a backup plan is? Who is your backup plan?”*
- >“I know you want to go home but you’re parents aren’t ready. Do you have someone who is close to you where you could live?”*
- >“I know you’re probably mad/sad/upset/angry/confused about not living at home. I am sorry that you can’t be at home right now. Where else would you like to live?”*



More Strategies!

- **Partners at the table should also have the conversations—everyone!**
- **Social Workers need to drill down on the TILP**
 - realistic goals/objectives
 - concrete steps
 - identify and engage connections (relatives/fictive kin/etc.) to support
 - use it as a roadmap for our youth and FOLLOW THRU!!!
- **CASAs, Attorneys and Judges need to assure that plans are appropriate and implemented**
- **Recognize that even if the youth has a TILP, *we still must continue to seek a family for them***



The EXPERTS Speak!!





***You can have the nine greatest individual ball players
in the world, but if they don't play together the club
won't be worth a dime.***

Babe Ruth, professional baseball player

Coming together is a beginning,
Keeping together is progress
Working together is **SUCCESS!!**

Henry Ford

Our youth deserve nothing less from us...

